

# Habitat Modeling and Assessment for the Missouri River Recovery Program

EWN for Water Operations
Strategic Meeting
March 31 – April 1 2015

Craig Fischenich, ERDC Environmental Lab



# **Background/Context**



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- 2000/2003 BiOp (plover, tern, pallid sturgeon)
- Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) and Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP)
  - Spring Pulse
  - Adaptive Management
  - Effects Analysis



## **Background - MRRP**



Management Plan: The scope of the effort is focused on removing or precluding jeopardy status and contributing to the recovery of the three species. Will identify preferred alternative to be implemented within an adaptive management framework, collaborate with stakeholders and fulfill NEPA requirements.

- Team: USACE, USFWS, Effects Analysis leads
- Timeline: began in 2013, concludes in August 2016
- Products: PEIS and AM plan; ROD

**Effects Analysis:** Provides a mechanism for quantifying the effects of past, ongoing and future USACE actions on the 3 listed species and evaluating the potential benefits of proposed management actions

- Teams: Three teams, including ERDC, USGS, PNNL, USACE, and USFWS staff
- Timeline: Began fall 2013, phase 1 complete spring 2015
- Products: EA Phase 1 draft reports in October 2014, final Phase 1 reports in spring/summer 2015

# **Background - MRRP**



<u>Objectives and Targets</u>: process to define objectives and targets for birds and sturgeon management. Quantitative targets for birds are focused on plovers.

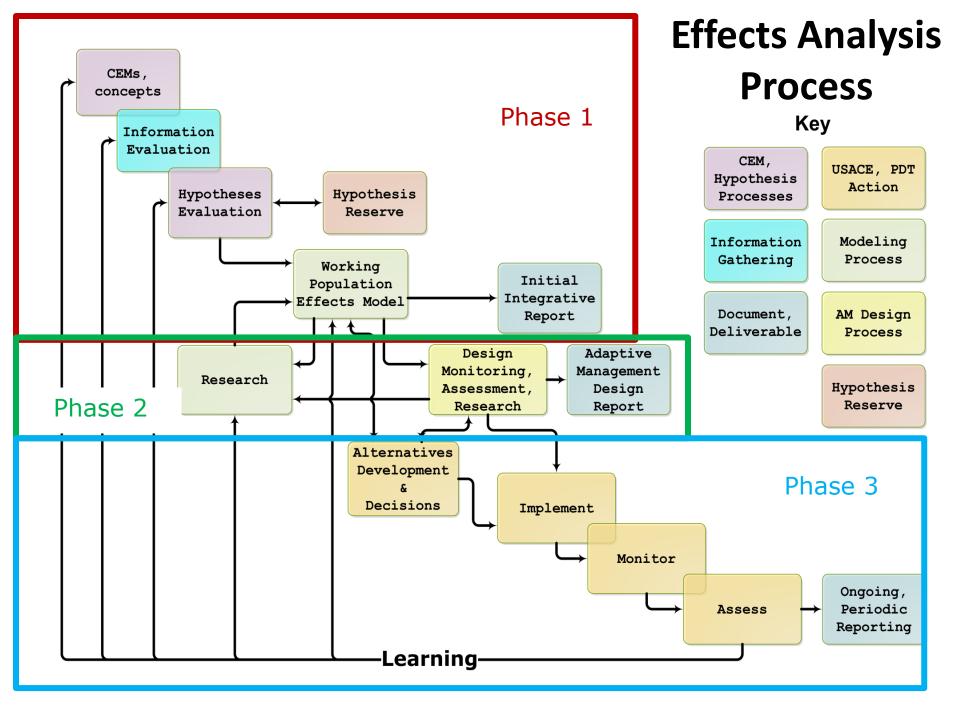
- Team: USFWS, assisted by EA leads and modelers
- Timeline: summer 2013 spring 2015
- Products: Objectives (available), quantitative targets for plovers and criteria for sturgeon

<u>Alternatives Development/PrOACT</u>: process to define management alternatives (suites of actions) using a structured decision-making (PrOACT) approach with MRRIC to assess the effects of the management actions on species and a set of "human considerations" metrics reflecting stakeholder interests and trade-offs.

- Team: USACE, USFWS, EA leads
- Timeline: driven by MRRIC schedule: "test" alternatives (exploratory management actions)
  presented in February 2015, Round 1 alternatives in May 2015, Round 2 in August 2015,
  selection of preferred alternative to follow
- Product: Preferred alternative

<u>Adaptive Management Planning</u>: Development of Adaptive Management Plan to accompany the PEIS that results from the Management Plan. Includes a research-focused "first increment" framework for pallid sturgeon management and a more traditional AM strategy for plovers and terns, as well as a governance and decision process that addresses both.

- Team: AM Process Team including staff from USACE, USFWS, PNNL, ERDC, Louis Berger
- Timeline: AM Governance structure and documentation in August 2014, began introducing pallid sturgeon framework in spring 2015, draft AM plan due October 2015
- Product: AM plan

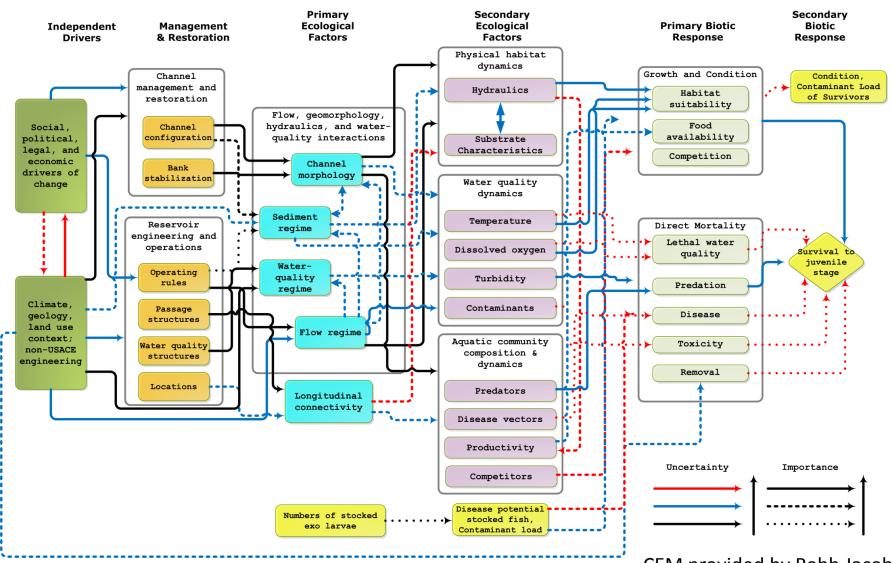


## **Conceptual Models**



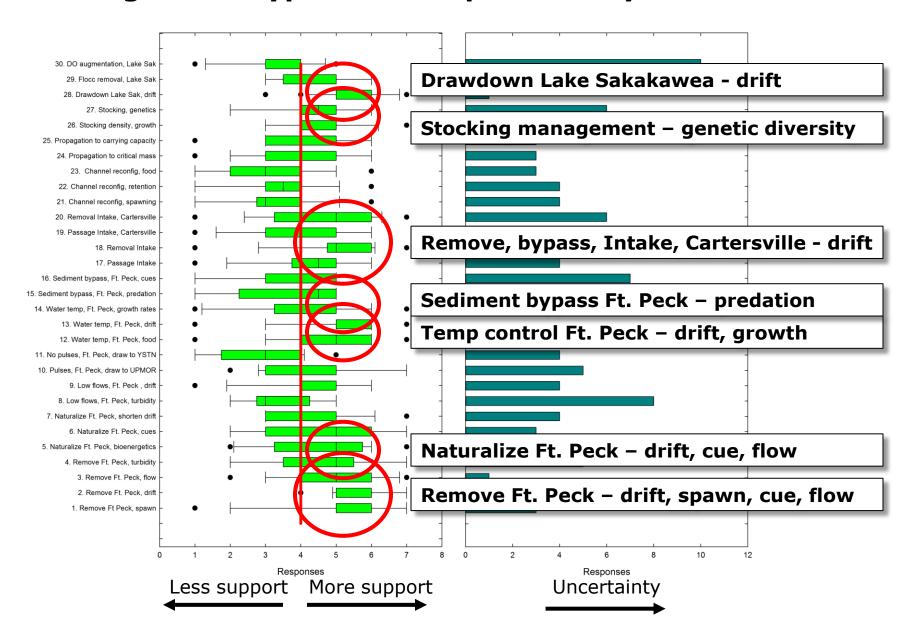
#### **Lower Basin Pallid Sturgeon CEM**

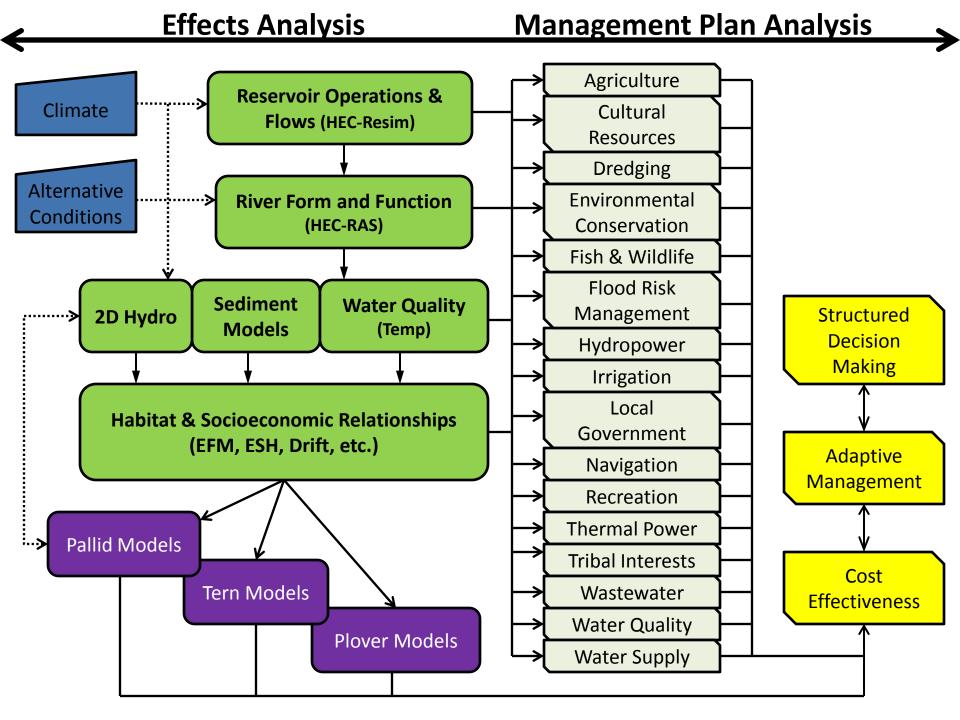
Exogeneously-feeding Larvae



CEM provided by Robb Jacobson

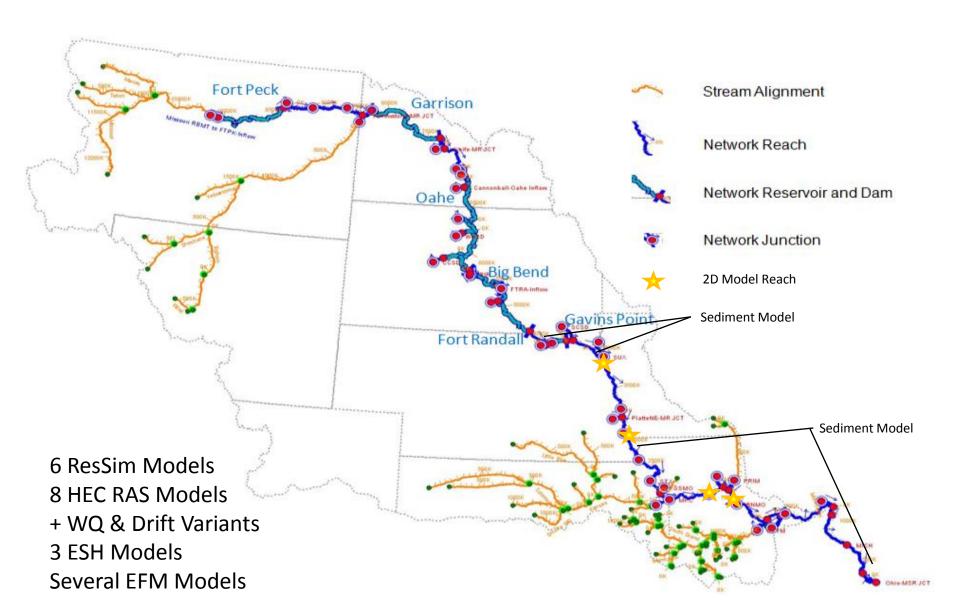
#### **Management Hypotheses Expert Survey**





# **H&H Modeling**

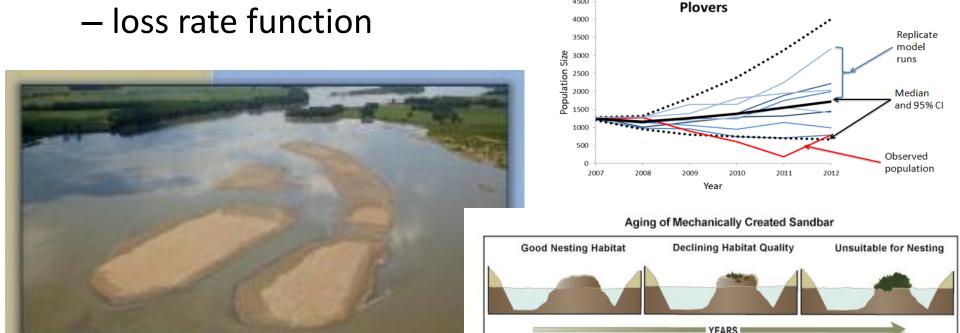




# Plovers (and Terns) Emergent Sandbar Habitat

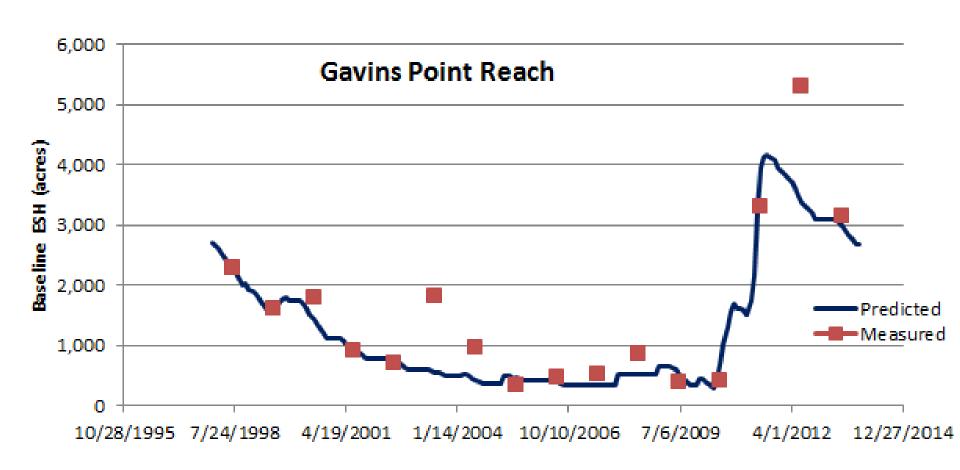


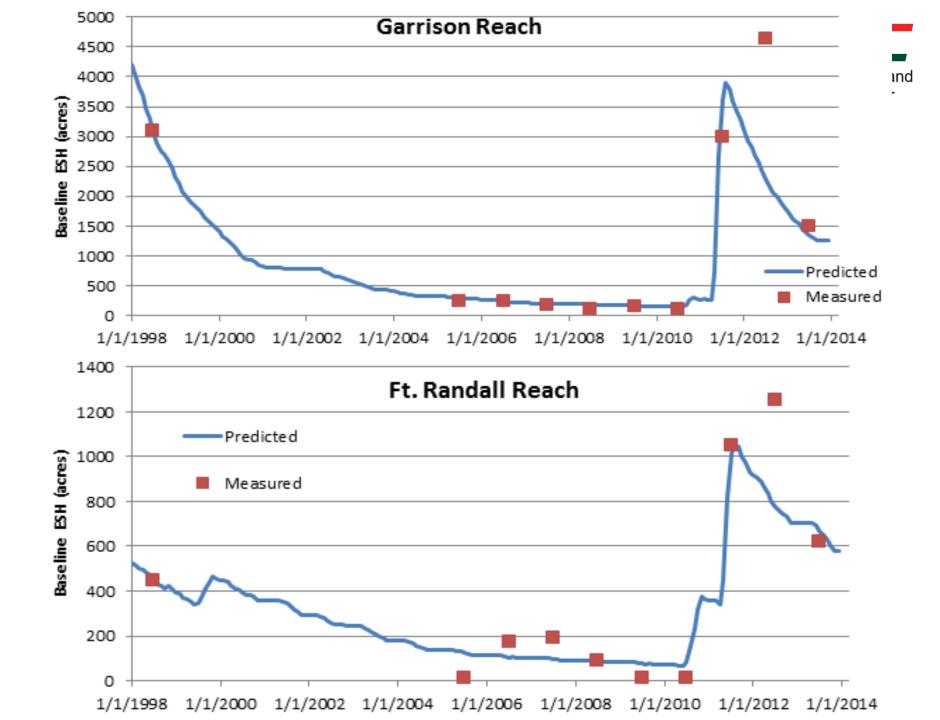
- Need for flow-dependent ESH relation
- Limited data & geomorphic modeling capability
- Previous model construct is sound but limited
  - Improved stage-area relations



### **ESH Model Performance**

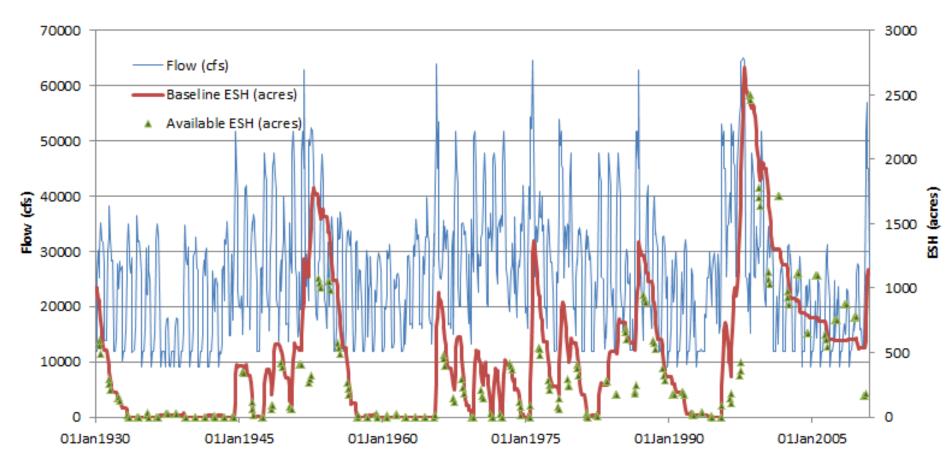






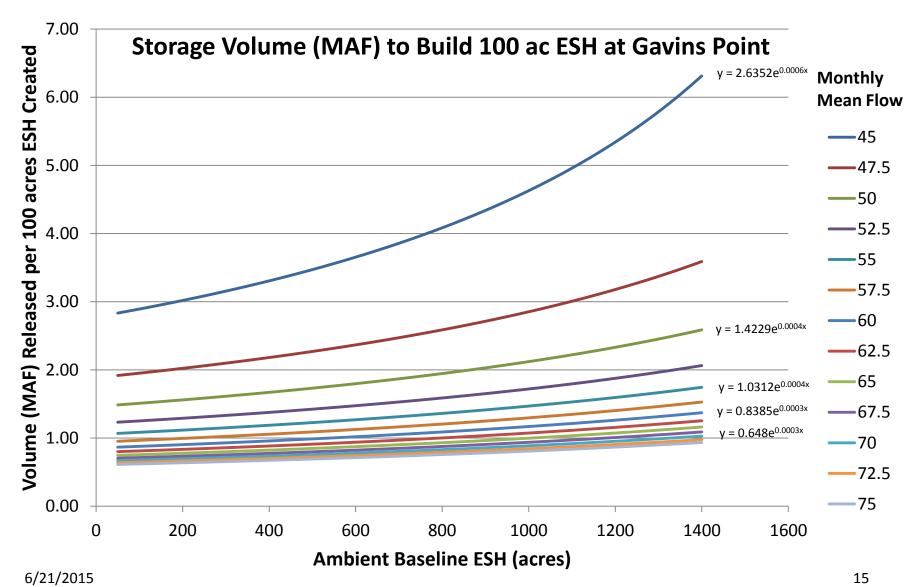
# Hindcast of ESH 1930 – 2010 Fully Regulated





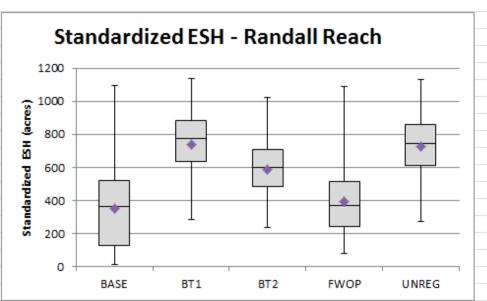
### **Alternative Formulations**

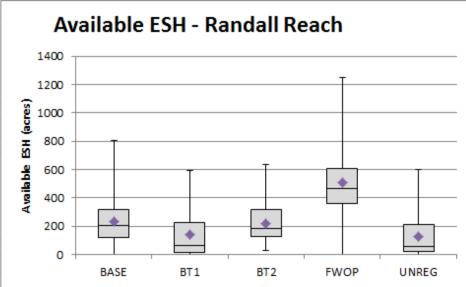


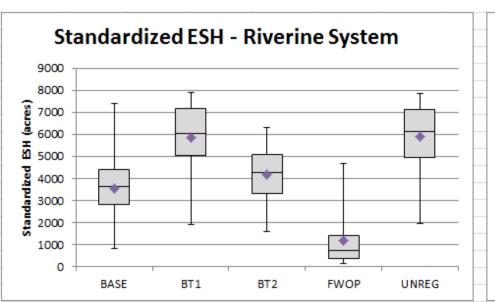


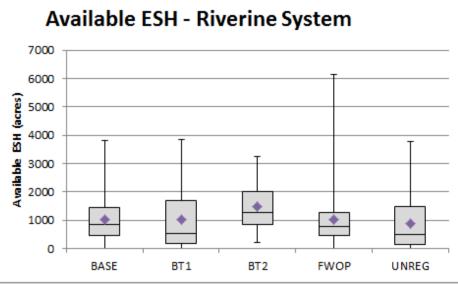
# **Alternative Comparisons**











### Pallid Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) ERDC Engineer Research and **Development Center** Migrate upstream hundreds of km Grow to sexual maturity, 7-14 years Spawn over hard, coarse substrate, adhesive eggs, fertilize, 4-7 days "Settle" into lotic incubation marginal habitats 11-14 days drift as free

embryo (or 6-9?)

DeLonay and others (2009)

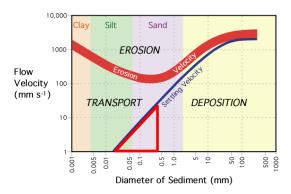
### **Drift – Dispersal of Free Embryos**



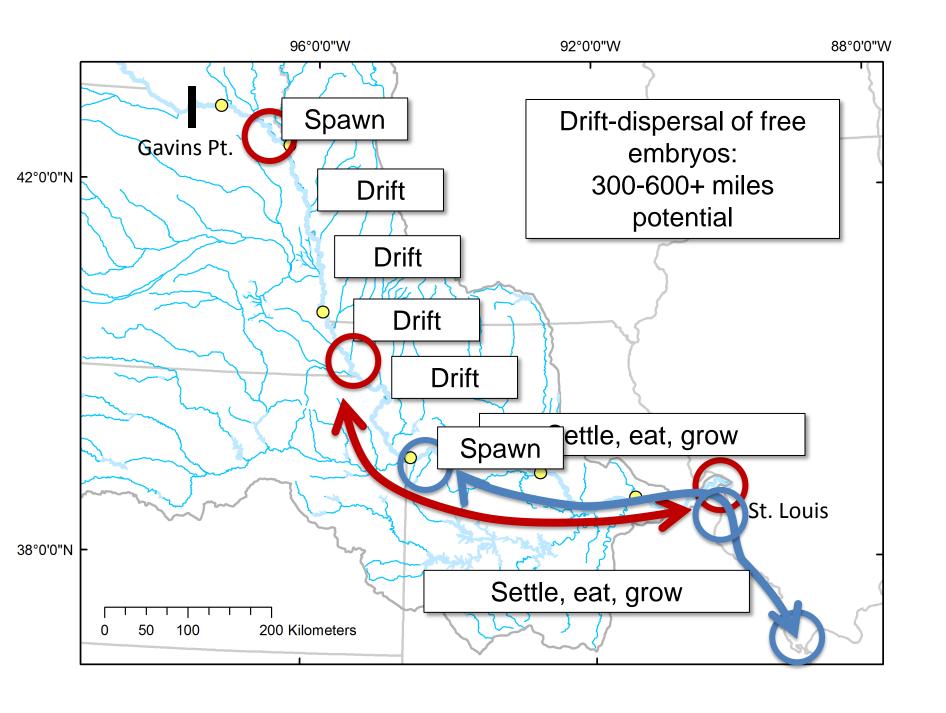
- 11-14 days to use up yolk sac **Uncertainties:** 
  - Temperature dependent
  - Interstitial residency: possibly • 5 days
- Adaptive behavior to drift, avoid predation
  - Probably not good to settle before transition
- At transition, need to feed immediately
  - Need food source mostly chironomid larvae

- Immediate/delayed drift
- Ability to move
  - Really passive?
  - Lab observations vs field observations.
  - 90% within 1 m of bottom.
  - Drift at  $\sim$ .9 \* v
- Deleterious effects of turbulence?
- Importance of spawning substrate, interstitial space?









# Working Definitions: Functional Habitats



Hypotheses point to four functional habitat types that may be responsible for recruitment failure; limiting factors not yet identified:

- Spawning habitat Convergent flow, high velocity, high turbulence, enhanced definitions based on Yellowstone reference.
- Food habitats Stable, fine substrate especially for chironomid production for age-0 fish diet - depositional areas, velocities < 0.08 m/s</li>
- Foraging habitats Enough depth and velocity to provide access to drifting food, not too much, age-0 CPUE peaks at 1-3 m and 0.5 0.9 m/s (Ridenour and others, 2011)
- Free embryo interception, retention Geometries that promote free-embryo transport from thalweg and retention

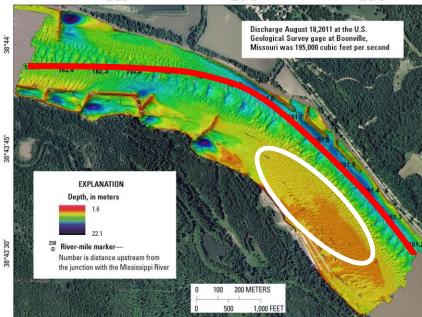
### **Interception Rearing Complexes**



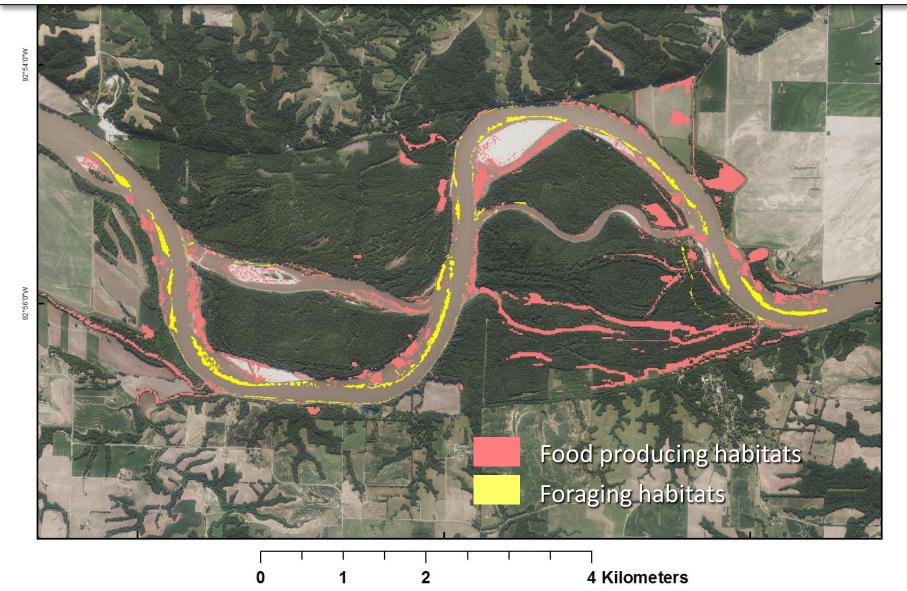
- Provide needed habitat for free embryos through first winter (at least) – age0 – age1
- Located downstream from spawning sites
  - Spawning site minus typical drift distance
- Off-ramp hydraulics from navigation channel
- Food-producing and foraging habitat available, neither limiting.







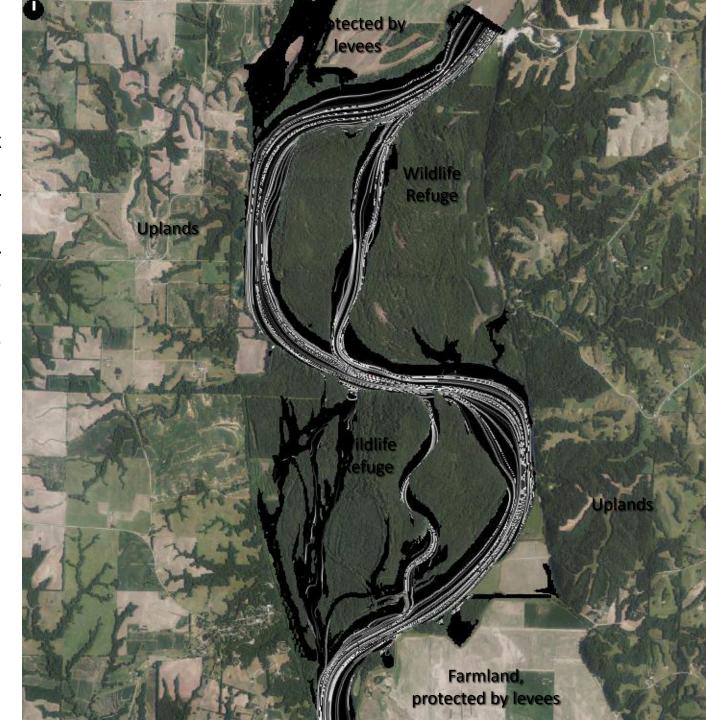
Lisbon-Jameson best-available example, lower lower river Hydrodynamic habitat model. Flow is from left to right 35,000 cfs



### Lisbon – Jameson Complex

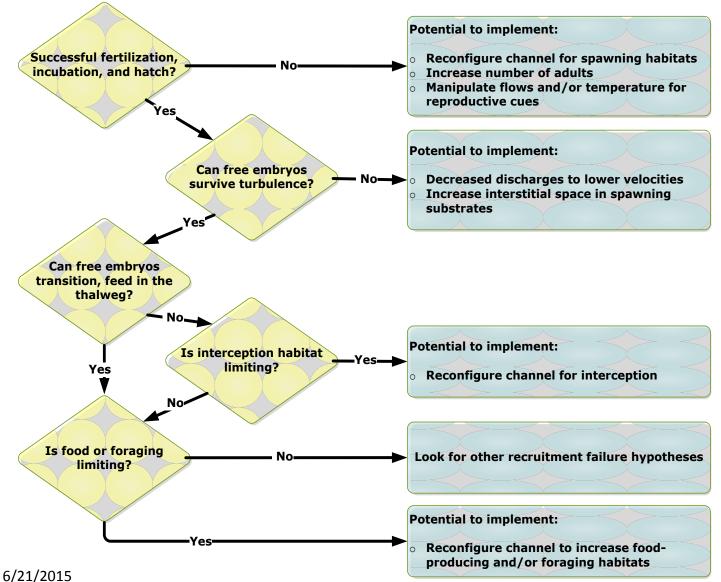
198,000 cubic feet per second Exceeded 16 days per year on average

Just under flood stage



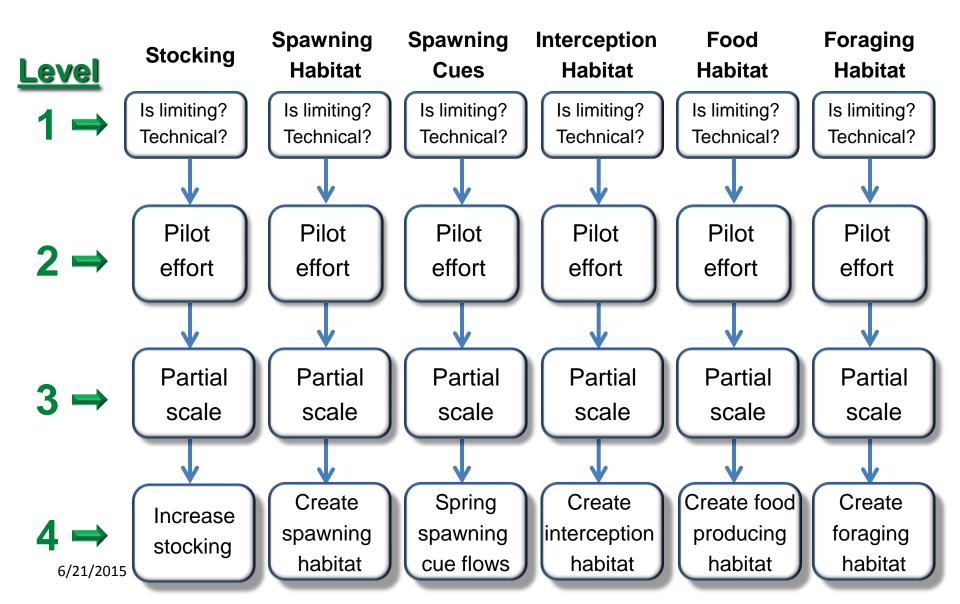
### **Decision Trees**



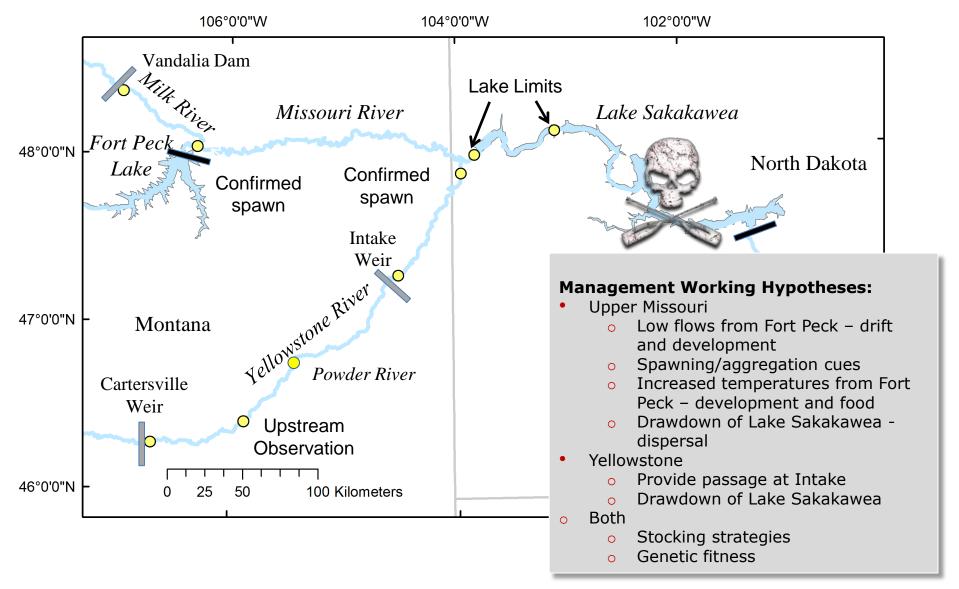


# **Pallid Sturgeon Framework**





# Free Embryo Drift and Survival Upper Missouri & Yellowstone Rivers Development Center



ERDC

**Engineer Research and** 

# 1D Advection/Dispersion





# Retention for 2003 – 2012; Spawn at Milk River Confluence



Year	% Retained @ T=5	% Retained @ T=6	% Retained @ T=7	% Retained @ T=8	% Retained @ T=9	% Retained @ T=10
2003	97	82	24	2	1	0
2004	99	100	79	29	7	3
2005	99	100	90	43	10	2
2006	99	98	71	23	6	3
2007	99	99	82	33	8	4
2008	100	99	76	26	4	0
2009	99	84	26	2	0	0
2010	80	20	3	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012	84	17	0	0	0	0
Total	86	70	45	16	4	1

# Preliminary Effectiveness of Management Actions



Percent Larvae U/S of Pool at T = 4 Days								
			Lak	e Sakakawea Pool Level				
Flo	w	HMin	Min	10	50	90	Max	
Exceed	Ft. Peck	1805.0	1812.6	1821.6	1843.2	1850.4	1856.0	
Min	3000	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
5	5500	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
10	6100	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
25	7150	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	
50	8600	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	
75	11000	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	92%	
90	14400	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	80%	
95	16100	100%	100%	100%	100%	89%	63%	

Percent Larvae U/S of Pool at T = 6 Days								
			Lak	e Sakakawea Pool Level				
Flow		HMin	Min	10	50	90	Max	
Exceed	Ft. Peck	1805.0	1812.6	1821.6	1843.2	1850.4	1856.0	
Min	3000	100%	100%	100%	98%	85%	70%	
5	5500	100%	100%	97%	80%	33%	22%	
10	6100	100%	99%	96%	75%	23%	14%	
25	7150	99%	98%	91%	60%	11%	6%	
50	8600	98%	96%	85%	49%	6%	4%	
75	11000	98%	94%	83%	44%	3%	1%	
90	14400	92%	86%	68%	30%	2%	0%	
95	16100	85%	76%	57%	20%	1%	0%	

Percent Larvae U/S of Pool at T = 8 Days								
			Lake Sakakawea Pool Level					
Flow		HMin	Min	10	50	90	Max	
Exceed	Ft. Peck	1805.0	1812.6	1821.6	1843.2	1850.4	1856.0	
Min	3000	92%	85%	60%	26%	7%	3%	
5	5500	53%	41%	14%	6%	1%	1%	
10	6100	47%	34%	11%	4%	0%	1%	
25	7150	29%	20%	6%	2%	0%	0%	
50	8600	16%	11%	3%	1%	0%	1%	
75	11000	12%	8%	2%	0%	0%	0%	
90	14400	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	
95	16100	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	

Percent Larvae U/S of Pool at T = 10 Days									
			Lake Sakakawea Pool Level						
Flo	Flow		Min	10	50	90	Max		
Exceed	Ft. Peck	1805.0	1812.6	1821.6	1843.2	1850.4	1856.0		
Min	3000	21%	19%	6%	3%	1%	1%		
5	5500	4%	5%	1%	1%	0%	0%		
10	6100	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%		
25	7150	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%		
50	8600	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
75	11000	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
90	14400	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
95	16100	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		





### **Near-Term Activities**



- Assist with establishment of targets
- Alternative development support
  - Identification/refinement
  - Effectiveness & trade-offs
- Adaptive management plan development
  - Hypothesis refinement, organization, prioritization
  - Decision-making and analysis process
- Hypothesis testing/data analysis
- Additional drift modeling (interception?)
- ESH model updates
  - New protocol for image processing & classification
  - Addition of vegetation component
  - Alternative time steps

# **Acknowledgements**



EA Co-PIs:		Cadre:	
Kate Buenau	PNNL	Paul Boyd	Corps
Robb Jacobson	USGS	Jean Reed	Corps
		Ryan Larsen	Corps
Work Team:		Christine Cieslik	Corps
Craig Fischenich	ERDC	Marian Baker	Corps
Stan Gibson	HEC	Emily Nziramasanga	Corps
John Hickey	HEC	Joshua Mellinger	Corps
Jeff Tripe	Corps	Travis Yonts	Corps
Dan Pridal	Corps	Michelle Whitney	Corps
Don Meier	Corps	Doug Clemetson	Corps
Tom Econopouly	USFWS	Doug Latka	Corps
		Nate Clifton	ERDC
Others: A large cast o	f District,	Bobby McComas	ERDC
and outside SMEs		David Smith	ERDC

### **EWN Essential Elements**



- ✓ Use science and engineering to produce operational efficiencies supporting sustainable project benefits.
- ✓ Use natural processes to maximum benefit, thereby reducing demands on limited resources, minimizing the environmental footprint of projects.
- ✓ Broaden and extend the base of benefits provided by projects to include substantiated economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- ✓ Use science-based collaborative processes to organize and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners to reduce social friction, resistance, and project delays while producing more broadly acceptable projects.

## **EWN Principles**



- ✓ Holistic an ecosystem approach for planning, designing, constructing and operating projects where social, economic and environmental factors are equitably weighed in the decision making process.
- ✓ A Systems Approach reflecting the reality that USACE projects exist in complex physical and social/cultural systems, and that a single action influences many other parts of the system.
- ✓ **Sustainable** focused on the long-term sustainability and resilience of project solutions and the benefits streams provided by the system over time.
- ✓ **Science-based** built on first understanding, then working deliberately with natural forces and processes to accomplish engineering goals.
- ✓ Collaborative based on effective partner and stakeholder communication, engagement and collaboration through the entire life cycle of a project, beginning at the earliest conceptual stages.

# **EWN Principles (concluded)**



- ? Efficient and cost effective reducing time and rework, while minimizing social friction.
- ✓ **Socially responsive** aligned with the values, objectives, interests and priorities of USACE, partners, stakeholders and society at large.
- ✓ Innovative embracing new and emerging technologies and incorporating continuous learning, technology transfer and adoption of new and leading practices.
- ✓ Adaptive demonstrating adaptive attitudes, structures and processes that enable a living, evolving and sustainable practice.

# **Background**











### **Background**



#### What is an Effects Analysis?

"Evaluation of the effects of a federal agency action that has the potential to harm a listed species...

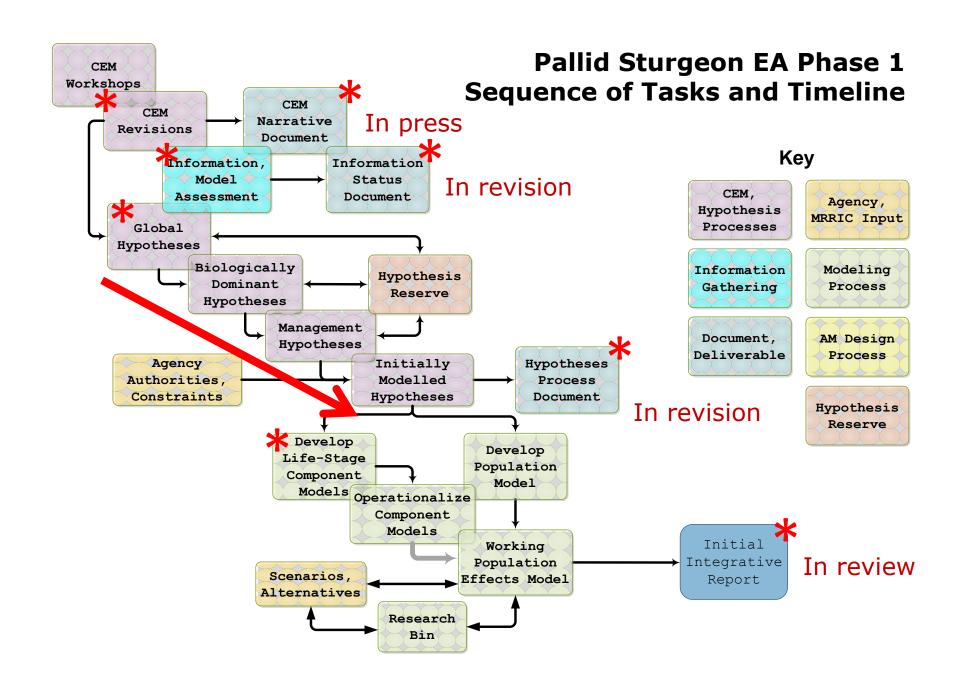
The framework includes three essential steps:

- the collection of reliable scientific information,
- the critical assessment and synthesis of available data and analyses derived from those data,
- and the analysis of the effects of actions on listed species and their habitats"

#### **Three Teams:**

- Hydrology, hydraulics, geomorphology (Craig Fischenich)
- Plovers and terns (Kate Buenau)
- Pallid sturgeon (Robb Jacobson)

Murphy, D., and Weiland, P., 2011, The Route to Best Science in Implementation of the Endangered Species Act's Consultation Mandate: The Benefits of Structured Effects Analysis: Environmental Management, v. 47, no. 2, p. 161-172. 10.1007/s00267-010-9597-9.



# **Model Framework Scope**



**Geographic:** Missouri River from Ft. Peck to St. Louis, including the lower Yellowstone River

**Temporal:** Forecast conditions for 30-50 years

**Resolution:** Dictated by species requirements and the processes and actions simulated

**Assessment Capabilities:** Includes, but is not limited to, management actions identified in the BiOp

Other: Support the broader management planning effort and future adaptive management needs by developing and employing models that can be used to support those purposes

## **H&H Modeling Backbone**



#### **HEC-ResSim**

- Simulates reservoir storage, pool levels, releases and downstream flows based on inflow, depletions, evaporation and reservoir operation criteria. The model will allow simulation of multiple reservoirs as a system.
- Used for comparing impacts/benefits of operational alternatives. Also used to provide input to sturgeon habitat, ESH, EFM and HEC-RAS models.

#### **HEC-RAS**

- Simulates one-dimensional steady and unsteady flow and changes in river stage, flow rate, and storage areas in the river and floodplain over time and by transect/river mile. Stage, flow, and other hydraulic data provides inputs to the species models (and HC analyses).
- The software also has capabilities for sediment modeling, water temperature analysis, and water quality modeling.

  Days Normal Intake, OPPD-No.Omaha Power sta, Lower is Better DRAFT THERI

#### **HEC-EFM**

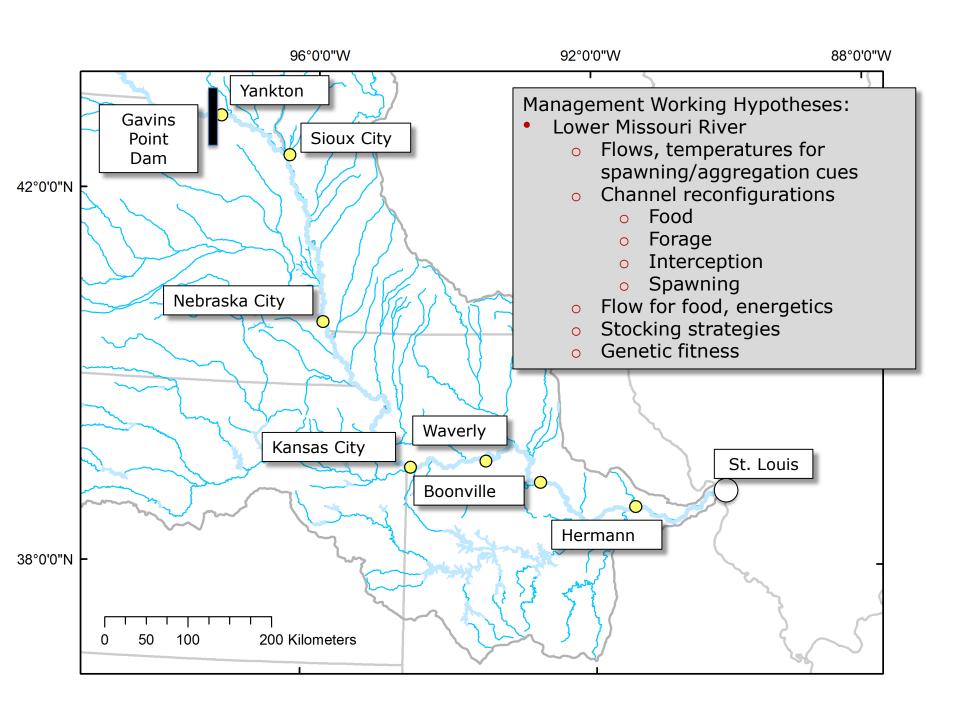
Used to assess spatial/statistical outcomes

Days < Normal Intake, OPPD-No. Omaha Power Sta., Lower is Better

DRAFT - THERMAL POWER PROXY CALCULATIONS

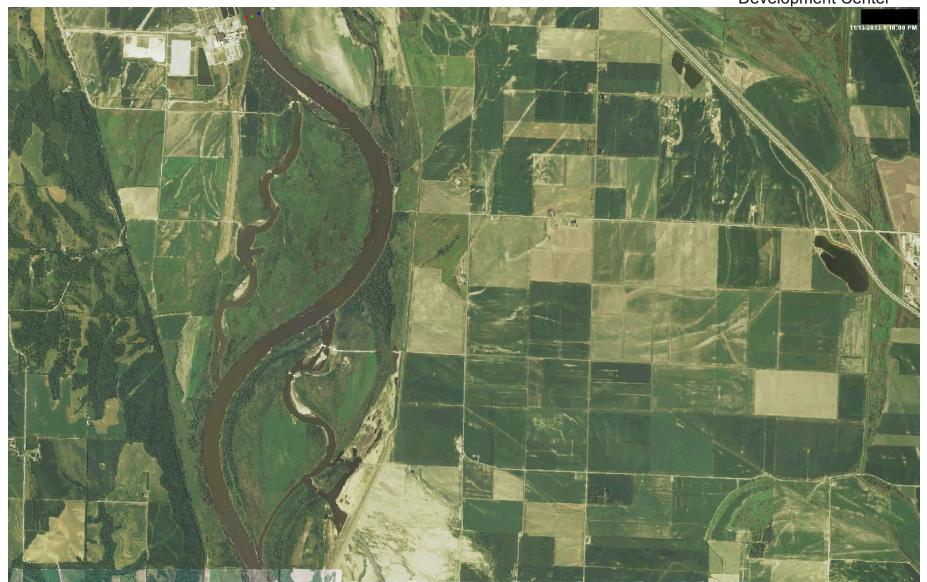
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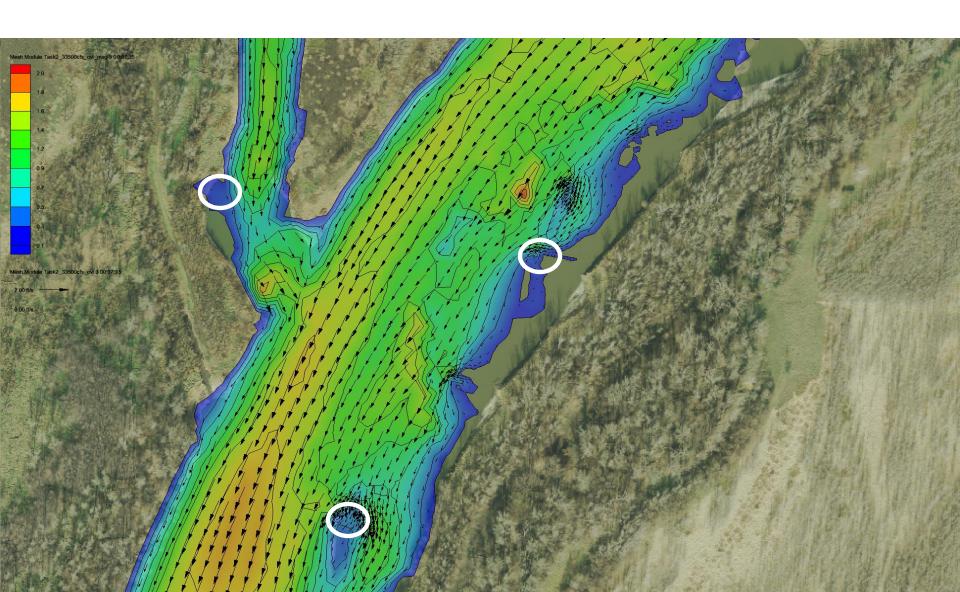
# **Modeling of Free Embryo Drift**











### Lower River (Gavins Pt. – St. Louis)



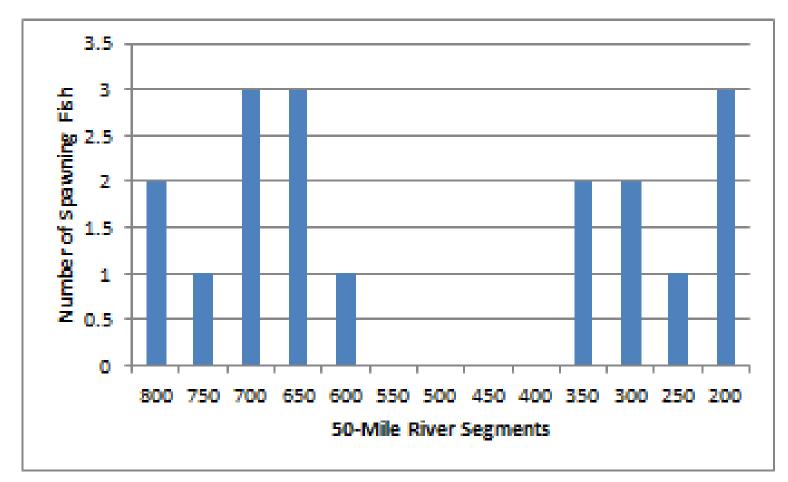
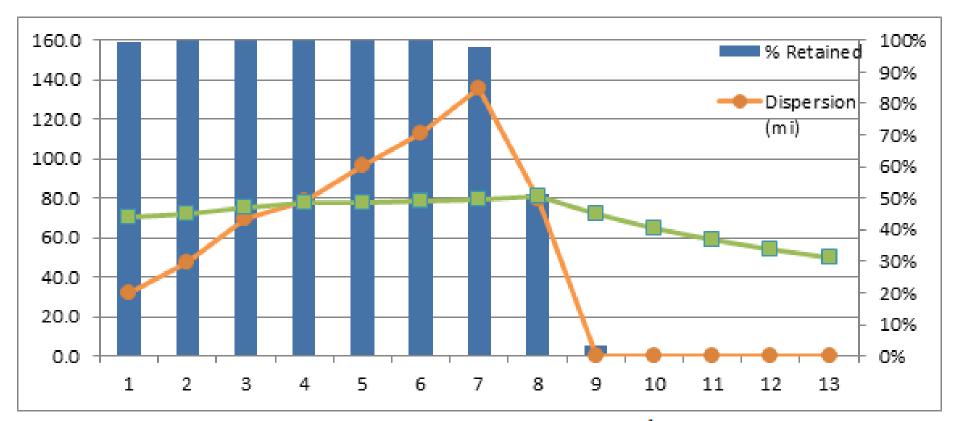


Figure 32, Probable spawning locations on the lower river, grouped in 50-mile segments, 2007 - 2012. (information based on telemetry data provided by USGS).



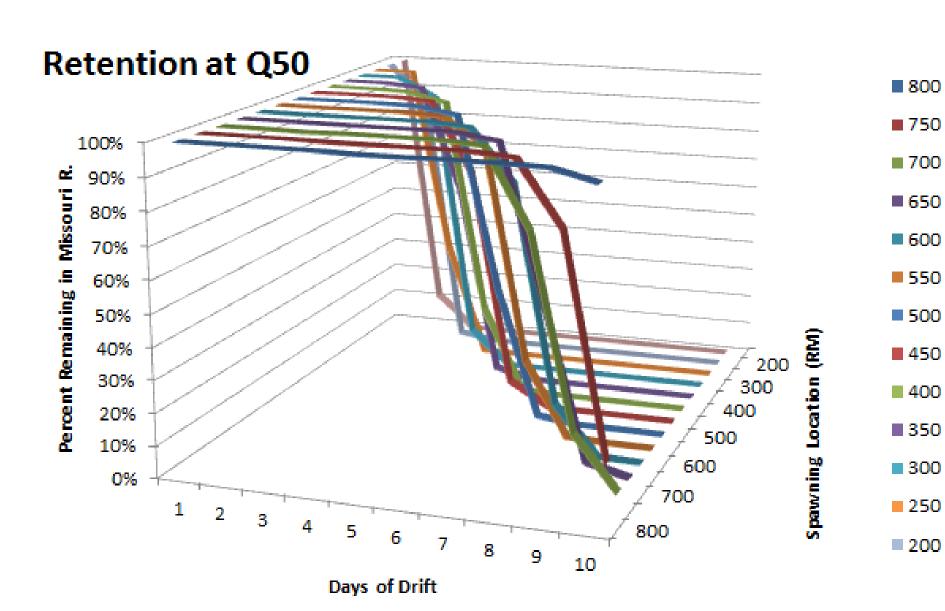
# Free Embryo Drift (RM600)



<u>Figure 43.</u> Retention, advection and dispersion for median June/July flows with drift initiated at RM 600 (Platte River Confluence). (Note: Need to correct and update this figure)

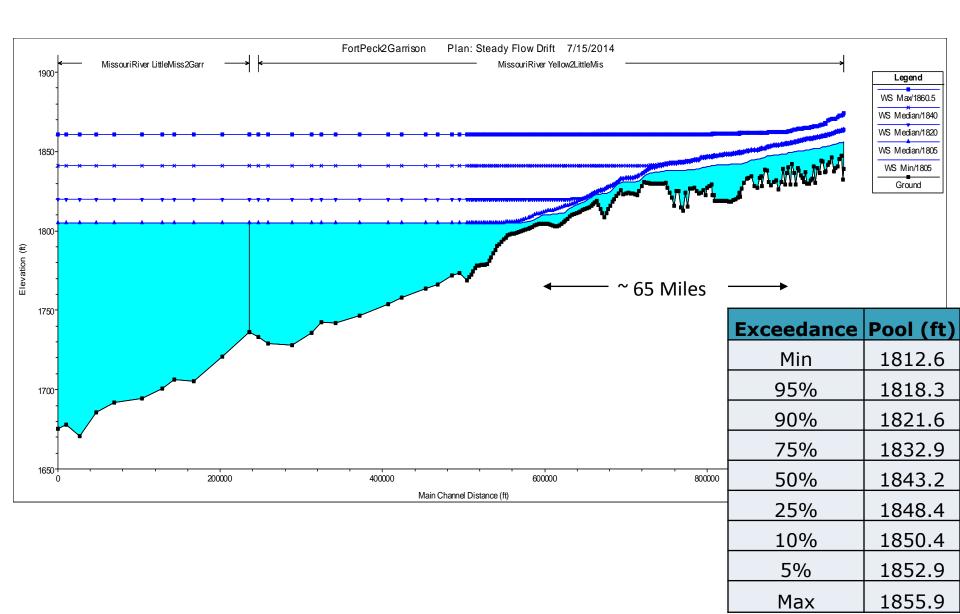
### **Retention/Distribution**





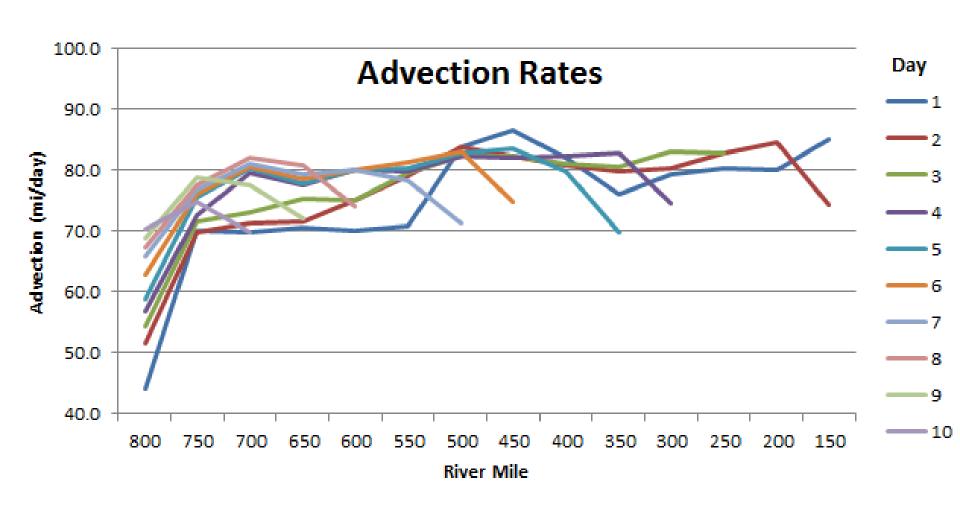
### Lake Sakakawea Pool Levels







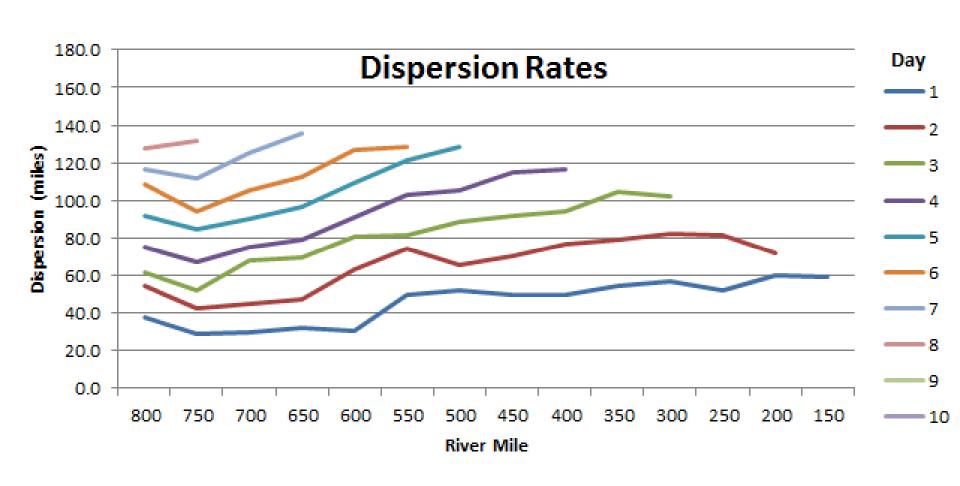
## **Advection Rates Q50**



## **Dispersion Rates**



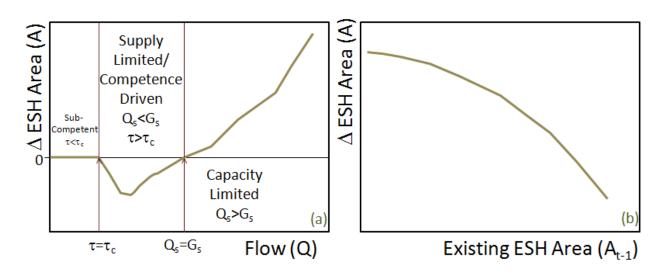
(at Q50 for Spawning Sites on 50-mi Increments)



# **ESH Conceptual Model**

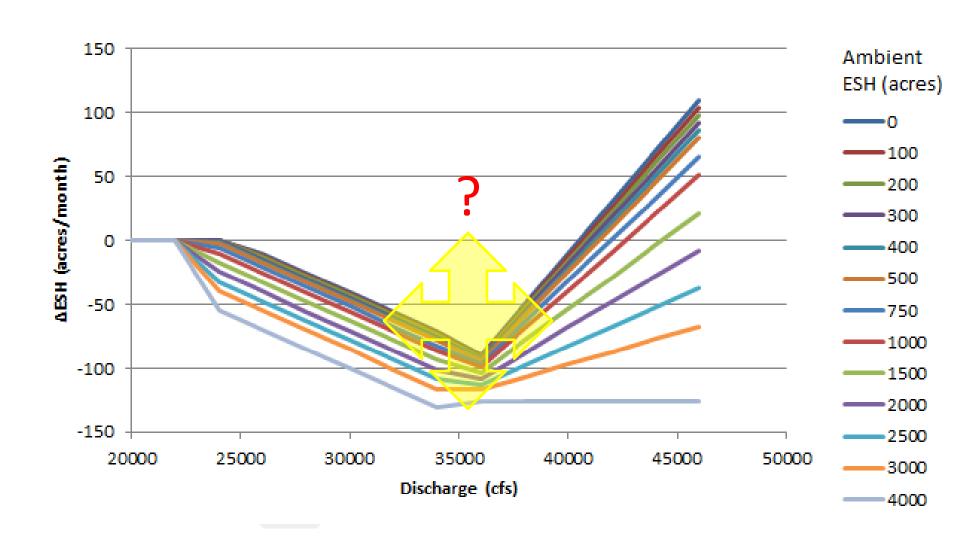


- Supply limited and competence driven
- Critical thresholds for erosion and transport
- Ambient ESH area affects response function
- A ~ f (Q, d, A<sub>t-1</sub>)



### **Model Construct**

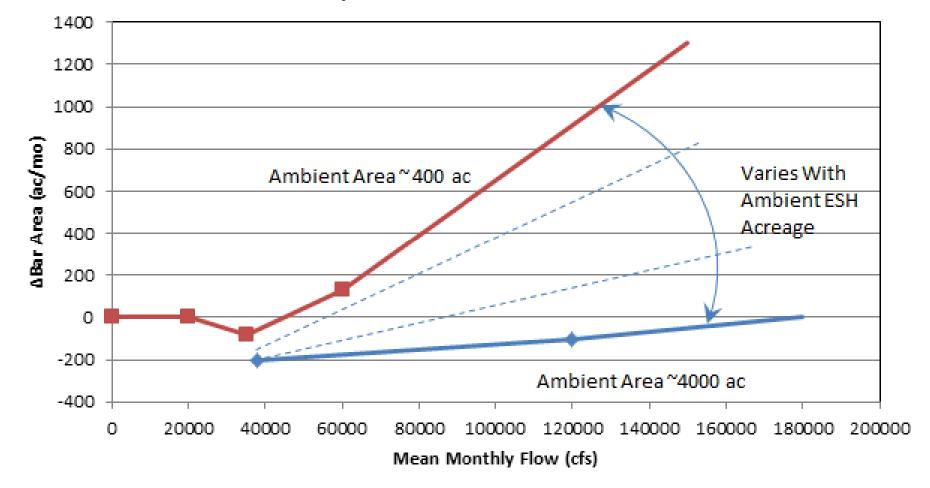




#### **Parameterization**



Assumption: Change in ESH due to flow magnitude and/or duration depends on ambient conditions

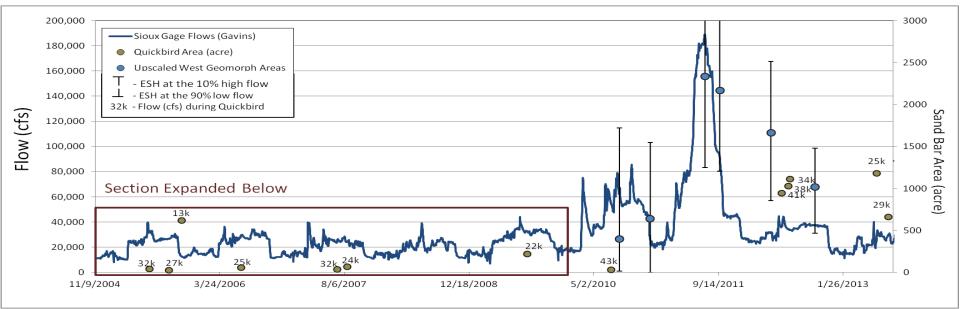


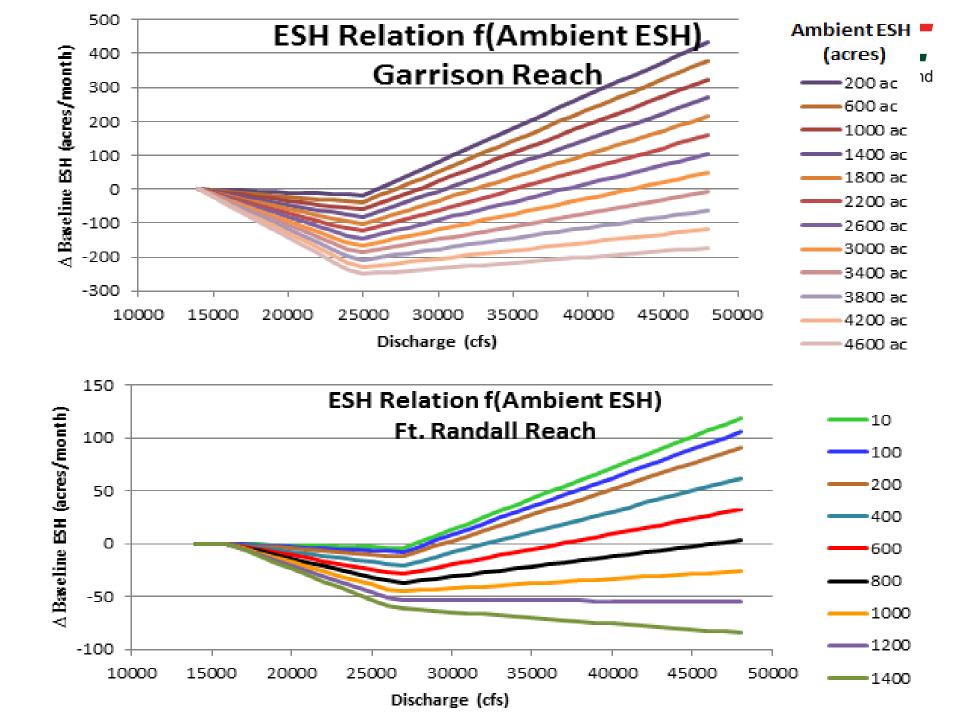
### **Empirical Data**



	WEST (2014) NWO Geomorph Study	QuickBird (USGS – Strong, 2007, 2012)
Coverage	Six 0.5-1 mile sections in the Gavin's Reach (8% of the reach)	Total coverage of Gavins and Garrison Reaches
Temporal Coverage	Seven measurement between 2010 and 2013, concentrating on the aftermath of 2010 elevated flow and the 2011 flood.	Thirteen coverage between 2005 and 2013.
Flow Control	ESH measurements independent of flow at time of measurement.	ESH measurements dependent on flow (e.g. higher flows return smaller ESH)

Supplemental data: Biedenharn et al. (2001), Elliott et al. (2006) and USACE (2013)





## **Algorithms**



#### **Gavins Point:**

$$A_t^* = A_{t-1}^* + \begin{cases} 0, & \&Q \le 22,000 \ cfs \\ -0.0076Q + 168 + .015(1300 - A_{t-1}^*), & 22k < Q \le 35k \ cfs \\ (-0.0000046A_{t-1}^* + 0.02)Q + 0.171A_{t-1}^* - 810, & \&Q > 35,000 \ cfs \end{cases}$$

#### **Garrison:**

$$A_t^* = A_{t-1}^* + \begin{cases} 0, & \&Q \le 13,000 \ cfs \\ (Q - 13000) * (-0.000005A_{t-1}^* - 0.0006), & 13k < Q \le 25k \ cfs \\ (-0.0000037A_{t-1}^* + 0.02)Q + 0.0396A_{t-1}^* - 517, & \&Q > 25,000 \ cfs \end{cases}$$

#### Ft. Randall:

$$A_t^* = A_{t-1}^* + \begin{cases} 0, & \&Q \le 16,000 \ cfs \\ (Q - 16000) * (-0.0000035 A_{t-1}^* - 0.0003), & 16k \ cfs < Q \le 28k \ cfs \\ (-0.000005 A_{t-1}^* + 0.0059) Q + 0.094 A_{t-1}^* - 163, & \&Q > 28,000 \ cfs \end{cases}$$

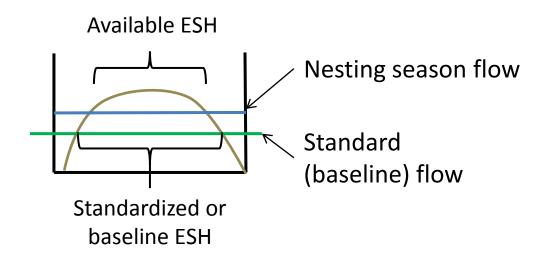


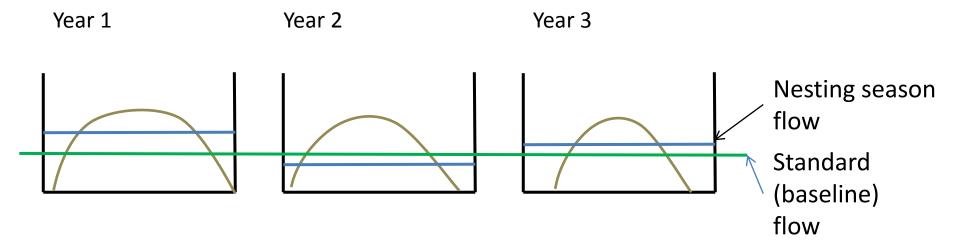
## **Hydrology for Assessments**

- Based on the POR from 1930 2012
- Historical inflows with current depletions and evaporation
- Current reservoir operating criteria, except as dictated by a given scenario
- Mean Daily conditions (flow, stage, pool elev) available for each reservoir and at ten computation points

### **Definition of ESH Metrics**



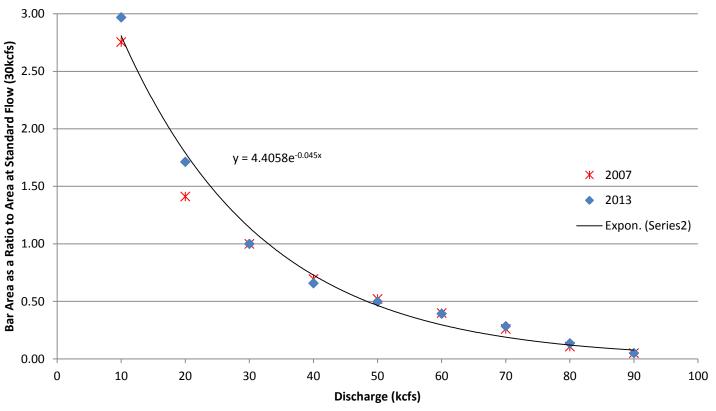




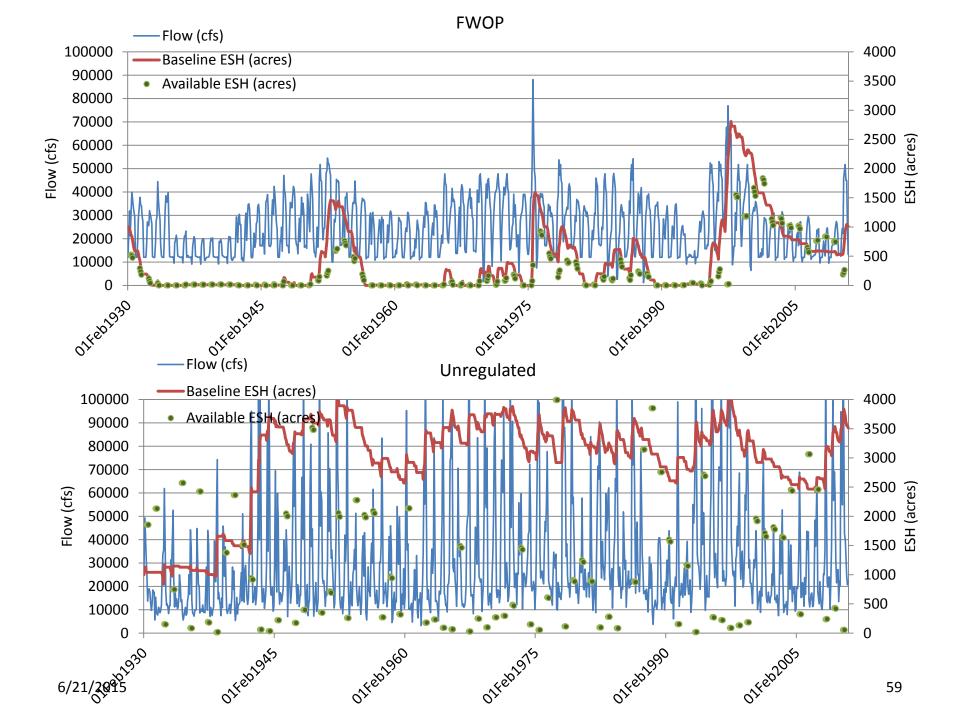
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## **Stage-Area Relation**





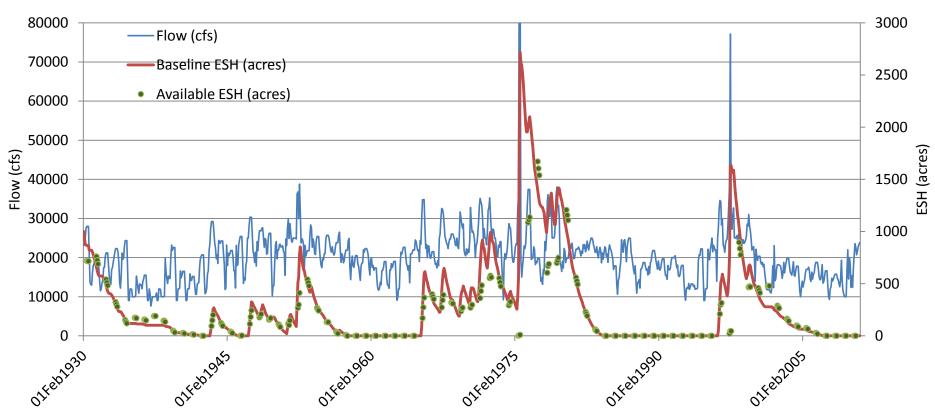
$$Y = 4.123e^{-0.045Q}$$
  
 $ESH_Q = Y * ESH_{base}$ 





#### **Garrison - Oahe**







### Ft. Randall - LCL

